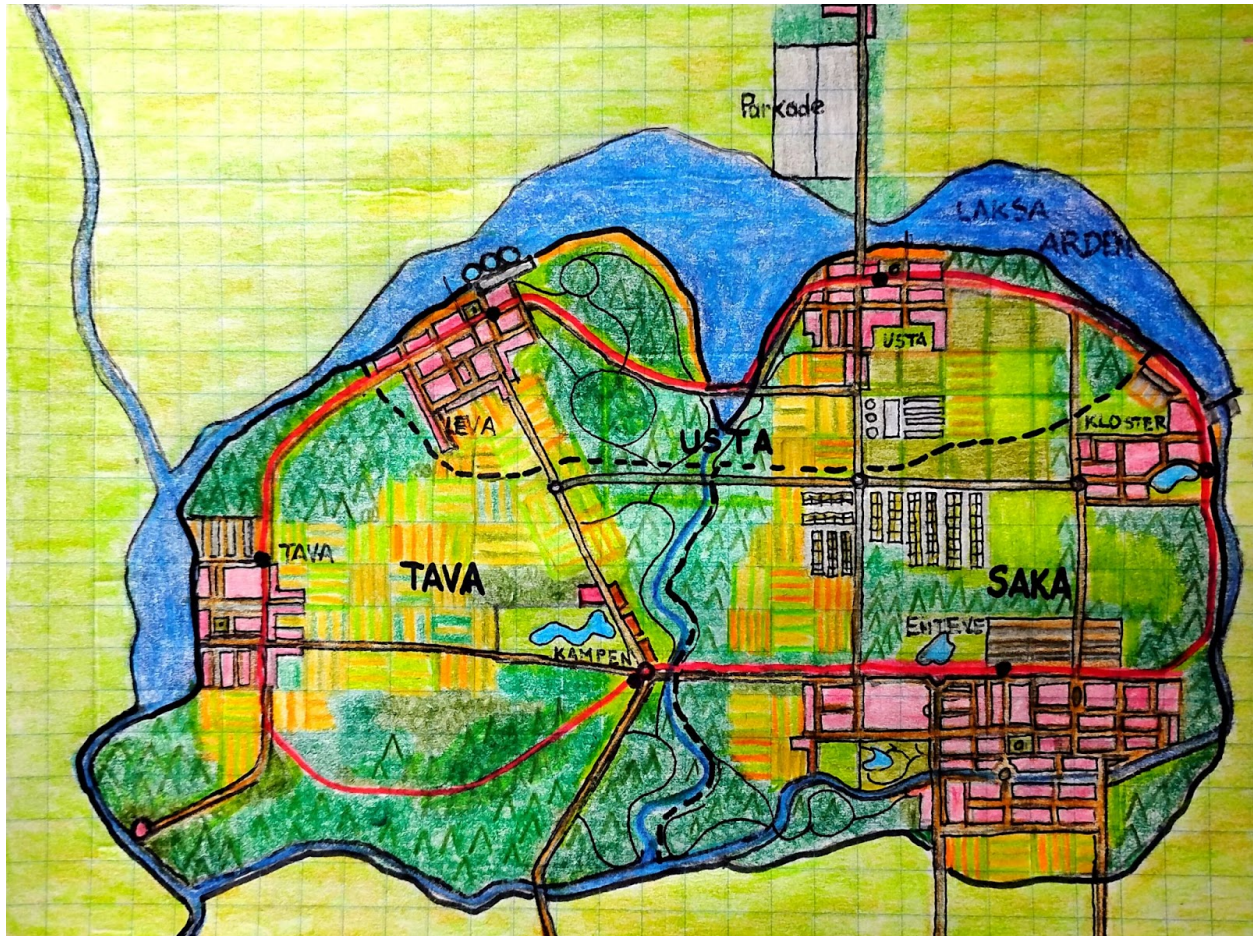




Alphistia
Small and Beautiful
by Anthony Skaggs



Alphistia - One Square Mile

Introduction

Project Alphistia is an organization set up to create a community for likeminded people to live together in a community of their own. Its first phase envisions a small town and several villages on a territory of approximately one square mile (2.6 square kilometers). Its population would be around 2400. The main town (called Enteve) would have 1500 people, with a number of smaller communities of several hundred people each, mostly engaged in farming. This booklet describes Alphistia in the near future, after a general national collapse in the USA has created crisis conditions, with a need for an alternative to the failed status quo.

Alphistia would have a system of representative democracy: a general assembly and local councils. There would be several political parties, and elections would be scheduled regularly, publicly funded, with clear electoral procedures ensuring fairness and honesty. Economically, Alphistia would have a network of profit and non-profit cooperatives that produce food, consumer goods, and services for the population. There would also be some small individual and family-owned

businesses. Energy and some other resources would be community-owned. As much as possible, Alphistia would be self-supporting, although trade with outside groups on a beneficial basis would be possible.

Socially, Alphistia would provide its members with a basic standard of living that focuses on quality of life over a panoply of consumer goods. All would have access to good education, health services, the opportunity to work, and time to enjoy non-work activities, as well as a basic standard of living that guarantees affordable comfortable housing, safety and security in a troubled world.

This first-phase Alphistia would be a prototype for the creation of an Alphistian microstate in the years to come (think Andorra or San Marino, not an edgy teen's backyard country). Until then, visitors could come to see in microcosm what Alphistia would be like as a nation state. They could study the Alphistian language, and participate in the creation of a unique culture.

Alphistia would be a green and sustainable place: its primary energy sources would be hydro, solar, and wind power. All vehicles would be pedal-powered bicycles and cars, and a small number of electric cars and trucks. There would be an electric bus-tram connecting all the settlements every 20 minutes.



The electric e-bus which connects all of the project's communities along a loop road

Mad Max America

Mad Max is a series of movies set in a post-apocalyptic Australia. The first one was made in 1978 and there have been several more up through 2016. Each film is set in a bleak landscape, environmentally degraded and largely uncivilized. Modern society has collapsed and has been replaced with chaos and anarchy.

There does not seem to be a national government anymore, or state government either. There are only loose factions, “tribes”, clans, and other small groups of people trying to survive. There is no reliable source of energy, and this lack features starkly in the films: the various groupings fight one another incessantly to have access to a minimum of fuel to keep what few vehicles and machines are left running.

There is no happy ending in any of the Mad Max movies. The world is cruel and many are dead or are killed all along the way. There is no democracy or elections of course. There is simply raw, brutal power. Greed is there as it always has been, as is the base nature of most of humanity.

It is not entirely “survival of the fittest”, although that is the norm. Small groups of “civilized” people are hidden here and there, in the ruins of flattened cities, or isolated away from the remnants of a road network where there are gang settlements, fortresses, encampments and gated communities, protected by thugs and inhabited by their clans. Conflict is neverending.

The third decade of the 21st century in the United States is an environment politically, economically, and socially hurtling headlong into Mad Max America. One of the country’s two political parties is controlled by a criminal gangster and his minions. They have captured the political system in a democratic election, by manipulating a massive faction of disgruntled and ill-educated voters that has been exploited by endless propaganda. The gangsters control all three branches of government, and many state legislatures and governorships. They are allied with far-right media outlets, think-tanks, and the leaders of most of the country’s largest corporations. There is a particularly ominous connection between the technology oligarchs who are buying elected officials. They intend to impose their undemocratic political ideas, control the economy for their own enrichment, and subject the population to their own economic and social whims to render them powerless and beholden to them, little more than serfs.

The result is a democracy on its deathbed, with a weakened opposition party that is incapable of fighting back (through its own corruption and deliberate blindness). Plenty of people oppose what is going on, but they are largely being shut out of the political process and intimidated into silence. The vast propaganda machine scapegoats minorities, but in particular immigrants (legal and undocumented, especially Latinos) and absurdly...an absolutely tiny group of transgendered individuals. They are abused as a substitute target short term for the right’s traditional homophobia.

It's anyone's guess what the next decade will bring. Economic collapse due to the egregious mismanagement by the current political regime, along with real effects of climate change are both likely. A trumped up national emergency in order to declare an outright dictatorship is a great danger. Already bad actors from the far right are colluding with their corporate counterparts to promote a collapse of norms at all levels of society. A Mad Max America with chaos and anarchy just like the Australian movies depicted is not unimaginable.

Small isolated communities like Project Alphistia's prototype could conceivably exist in such a reality, although it would not be a secure situation. The medium/long term goal would be to exit Mad Max America for a safe territory, and that is explained in many other documents from Project Alphistia. In this prospectus, Alphistia is described as a community of one small town and several villages, self-sustaining as far as possible, existing under the radar as much as it would be able to, and hoping to survive the transition to a sovereign country somewhere far from Mad Max America.



1-Welcome Center, 2-Parking lot, 3-Wind turbines, 4-Dairy Farm, 5-Chicken and egg farm, 6-e-bus garage, 7-Hydroelectric dam, 8-Greenhouses, 9-Workshops, 10-Solar panels, 11-Camping, 12-Market gardens, 13-Allotment gardens, 14-Fish farm, 15-Goat farm

Alphistia Small and Beautiful

Central Illinois is a flat landscape with some of the richest soil in the world. In recent decades, much of that agricultural land was wasted on growing soybeans for ethanol and corn to feed cows. This corporate agriculture was unsustainable long term and has collapsed. A few farmers however grew organic vegetables and fruits, because if you throw seeds onto the ground in this area, beautiful produce will grow as if by magic.

In a lucky circumstance in the near future, Project Alphistia is gifted land in this area that is slightly more than one square mile in size. It was formerly a convent for Catholic nuns, with acreage for gardens, more than 200 acres of woods,

adequate water resources, and a slightly more rolling terrain than most of the nearby area, due to a small river on its northern side.

The climate is typical Illinois: cold and snowy winters, hot but not overly humid summers, pleasant springs and autumns. There is a near constant prairie breeze from the west. The growing season is 165 days.

Aside from the convent buildings and some barns, the rest of the land had never been occupied. About 75 acres had been used for vegetable and fruit gardens by the nuns, and there were chicken coops as well. The area was zoned as agricultural/group residential, so it would be permitted to add new housing and infrastructure. The nearest settlement was 5 miles away, a college town with a big state university was 24 miles away, with rail connections to Chicago.

Project Alphistia drew up plans to develop the square mile with settlements housing 2500 people. Due to the breakdown in recent years of administrative norms at the federal, state, and county levels, it was relatively easy for the Project to charter the 650 acres as an autonomous entity. Construction began of the town and villages relatively quickly, and by the end of a three year plan, 2400 people had migrated to Alphistia.

During a period of deep economic depression and uncertainty, Alphistia has needed to be able to provide food, housing, jobs, and social services. Co-operatives were formed to grow, process, and sell the food grown on the farmland. Chicken farming, dairy cows, and a goat farm provide eggs, chickens as food, milk and cheese for the residents and to market in nearby towns. Fish farms were created in a reservoir that resulted from damming the Arden Creek. The quality of production is organic and is popular in the many farmers markets locally, since long supply lines of so many products have collapsed in recent years.

Cooperatives also produce a limited line of goods for local use and to trade or sell regionally. A brick and concrete factory was built to construct the homes and other local buildings. Two small hydroelectric dams, solar farms, and a limited number of windmills provide for Alphistia's energy needs. Most petroleum products are available only at great expense and supplies are unreliable. Alphistia uses an extremely small amount of oil, gas, and gasoline.

The biggest enterprise is called "Renova" and specializes in reusing, repairing, and reselling products acquired from "treasure hunts" in surrounding towns and

even Chicago. A network of shops in the project's communities specializes in what traditionally might be called "junk" sales, but the quality of most of the goods is high, when new products are expensive to produce and are sold in limited quantities in recent years in the USA. The local shops sell not only to residents, but "tourists" who come to Alphistia to find quality goods not easily found in one place at reasonable prices.

The town and villages are connected by a brick road that loops around the square mile. This is used primarily by an electric bus route that provides continuous service every twenty minutes. There are no gasoline powered vehicles in Alphistia. People use small electric carts and bicycles, pedal cars and bikes, or they walk between settlements along a pathway network, which is called the "flis" system.

Housing consists of small apartment houses, row houses, and a limited number of individual villas and cottages. The settlements are low-rise but high density, and all workplaces, shops, schools and community services are easily reached on foot.

Alphistia is a demonstration project for what the Project hopes will eventually be a sovereign nation outside what remains of the United States. Travel is more difficult than it once was, but Project Alphistia provides regular electric bus connections with the nearby college town, and offers charter bus services to Chicago. Visitors to the community can stay for a day or several nights in a relaxed atmosphere with good food, leisure and learning opportunities, all at low prices. The benefit for the Project is to introduce the Alphistian way of living to outsiders. Some people rent timeshare units in Alphistia's settlements so they can visit regularly. There is the Folkschool in Enteve, which provides courses in many subjects for adults, including the Alphistian language. In the original convent area, a short weekend course is regularly offered to those interested in a quick overview of the ideas behind Project Alphistia.

The careful design and landscaping of Alphistia has created a small and beautiful place similar to a lived-in park or botanical garden. This is deliberate in a time of great ugliness and neglect in the areas just beyond our borders, and is a great benefit to residents and visitors.

Co-operation

Project Alphistia is administered democratically. Residents elect a national council, and Enteve has an elected town council. The other communities are located in two provinces, which each elect a 3 member administrative council. There is a school complex in Enteve with education for grades 1-12. Each village has a kindergarten. There is a small police force called the “Garda” and a volunteer-based fire department. There is a medical clinic staffed with several doctors and support staff which takes care of most health services in the community. Each resident is provided with a health insurance policy that provides free medical care inside Alphistia, and subsidizes costs at doctors/medical centers in nearby towns. Revenue is from a local tax on resident income, a value-added tax on goods, and enterprise profit taxes, as well as profits of the Renova cooperative.



The Kilrete - Alphistia's assembly and Enteve's town hall

Renova is a company created by Project Alphistia to resell secondhand items. It is organized as a for-profit cooperative, and each resident in Alphistia has shares in the enterprise.

Renova finds used items in several ways. It has organized a clearance service in Central Illinois and Chicago, where those who are moving can arrange for Renova to haul away unwanted goods. For those who have passed away, Renova can provide estate removal services with surviving family or friends.

These services are free. The co-op also regularly visits towns on bulk pickup days to find furniture, electronic items etc. Renova has a fleet of electric vans to retrieve goods. There is a warehouse in Chicago, where a large amount of merchandise is processed and stored. Here staff sort goods, fix and refurbish what can be sold, salvage spare parts that can be reused, and arrange sale for scrap for things that are no longer of value. The warehouse has an adjacent store, which is one of the most popular thrift shops in the Chicago area. There is also a branch shop in Urbana IL.

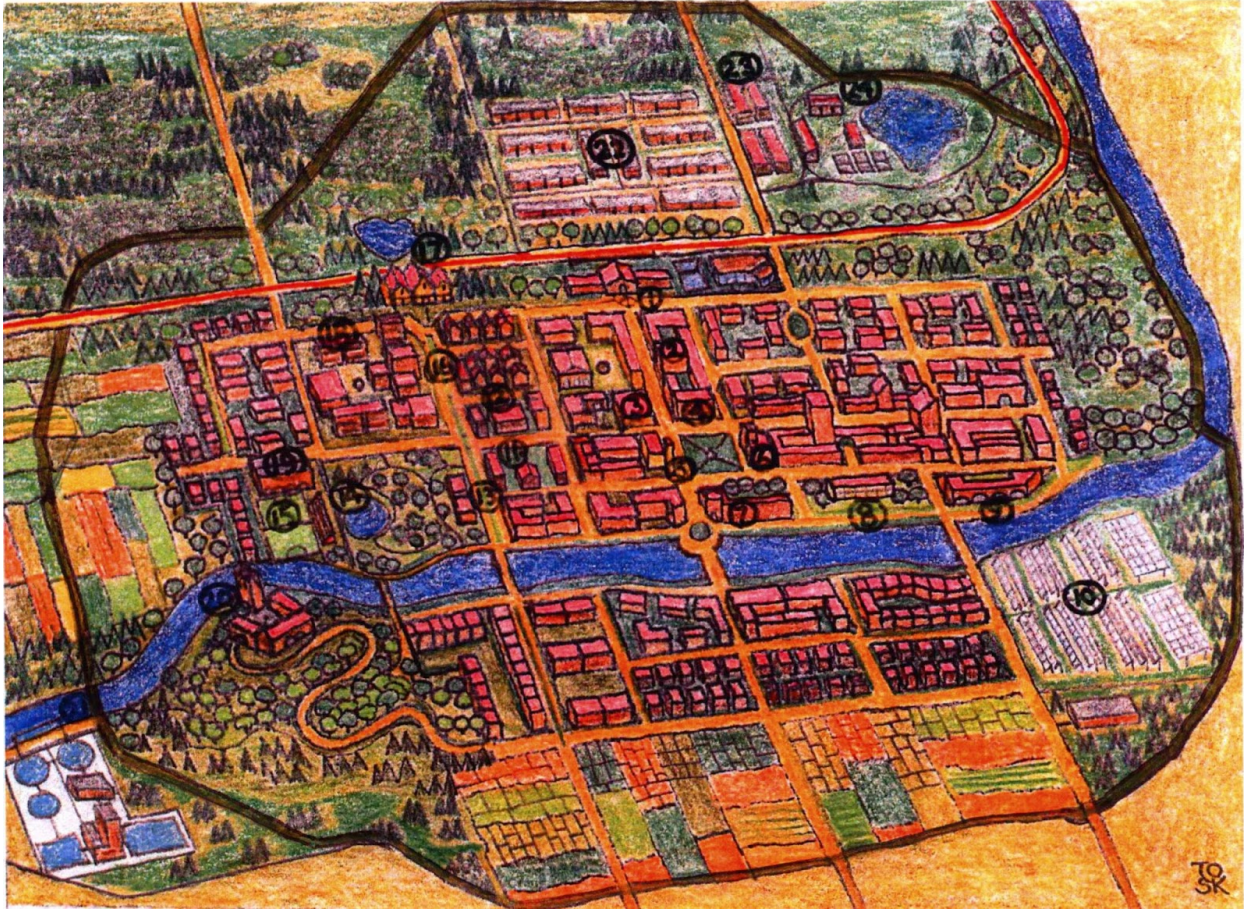
Renova has five shops in Enteve, the main town of Alphistia. Goods found at locations in Central Illinois are repaired at local workshops and prepared for sale. They are sold not just to residents, but also to many visitors. There are stores for clothing, household items, furniture, books, and electronics.

Renova's profits are divided amongst shareholders and to subsidize the costs of Project Alphistia. The company is very successful in a period when so many enterprises in the regional economy have gone bankrupt or struggle to stay in business. The collapse of the globalized economy has reduced disposable income drastically, as have the failed attempts to replace workers with AI robots. Political instability and the effects of the climate crisis have made personal transportation costs and consumer prices increase wildly in relation to household income. People need alternatives to the waste and excess of an economy and society that enriches the wrong people and extracts profits from those who can no longer afford the promises of the American Way of Life. Renova helps to fill the gap with good quality low-priced goods for those victimized by a system that no longer works.

Alphistia provides a range of locally produced items to its residents with its small-scale factories and workshops, all organized as co-ops also. The assortment of Renova items and what Alphistia can make covers most consumer goods that are useful for everyday life in Alphistia. There is an artisan's co-op which has a shared maker-space in Enteve, and individual shops along a street arcade in the center of town. Private artisans and small companies also operate in the community.

Alphistia also has agriculture co-ops that provide much of the food consumed by the residents. These are modeled on the moshavim in Israel. There are two kinds: those that emphasize small garden plots owned by individuals and families, and a more collective enterprise with bigger fields, which are owned by the farmers as a group. The co-ops operate their own processing factories which

focus on canning of goods for year round supplies. They also have several greenhouses where they can grow fruits, vegetables, and herbs during winter. There is a supermarket in Enteve, smaller co-op food stores in each village, and green markets and kiosks throughout the community to provide residents and visitors with good quality local food.



Enteve, the capital of Alphistia

1-Welcome Center e-bus station 2-Kino cinema, 3- Ko-op supermarket, 4-APN department store, 5-Project Alphistia buildings, 6-Hotel Sutat, 7-short term apartments, 8-medical clinic, 9-old age home, 10-solar farm, 11-theater, 12-library, 13-museum, 14-Sutat Park, 15-Sport Park, 16-Folk School, 17-Kilrete-assembly hall and town hall, 18-schools grades 1-12, 19-sport hall, 20-Kinden Kastel children's castle, 21-water treatment, 22-workshops, 23-Renova Co-op workshops, 24-sports center

Enteve

The biggest settlement in Alphistia is Enteve. It is just 1500 people but is built densely and has an urban feel. Most of the housing consists of small apartment buildings called “quads” (four units each). There are a few tower blocks two but none higher than seven stories.

The ring road that loops around Alphistia brings the e-bus to its station on the north side of the town, facing People’s St/Pravikense Prospekt. The station building is the tourist information center for the town and Project Alphistia. Staff can help with reserving a room, providing brochures about places to visit, eat, and shop, and there is are restrooms, a lounge with a coffee bar, and a bank branch.

Along People’s Street are the main shops of Enteve. There are several Renova stores (for clothing, household goods, furniture, and electronics). There is a bookstore which sells all materials about Alphistia that are available currently. There is a cinema that focuses on world classic films and international film series. And where People’s Street crosses Alphistian Avenue (Alvestean Avena), there is the Ko-op supermarket and the Alphistian Department Store (APN).

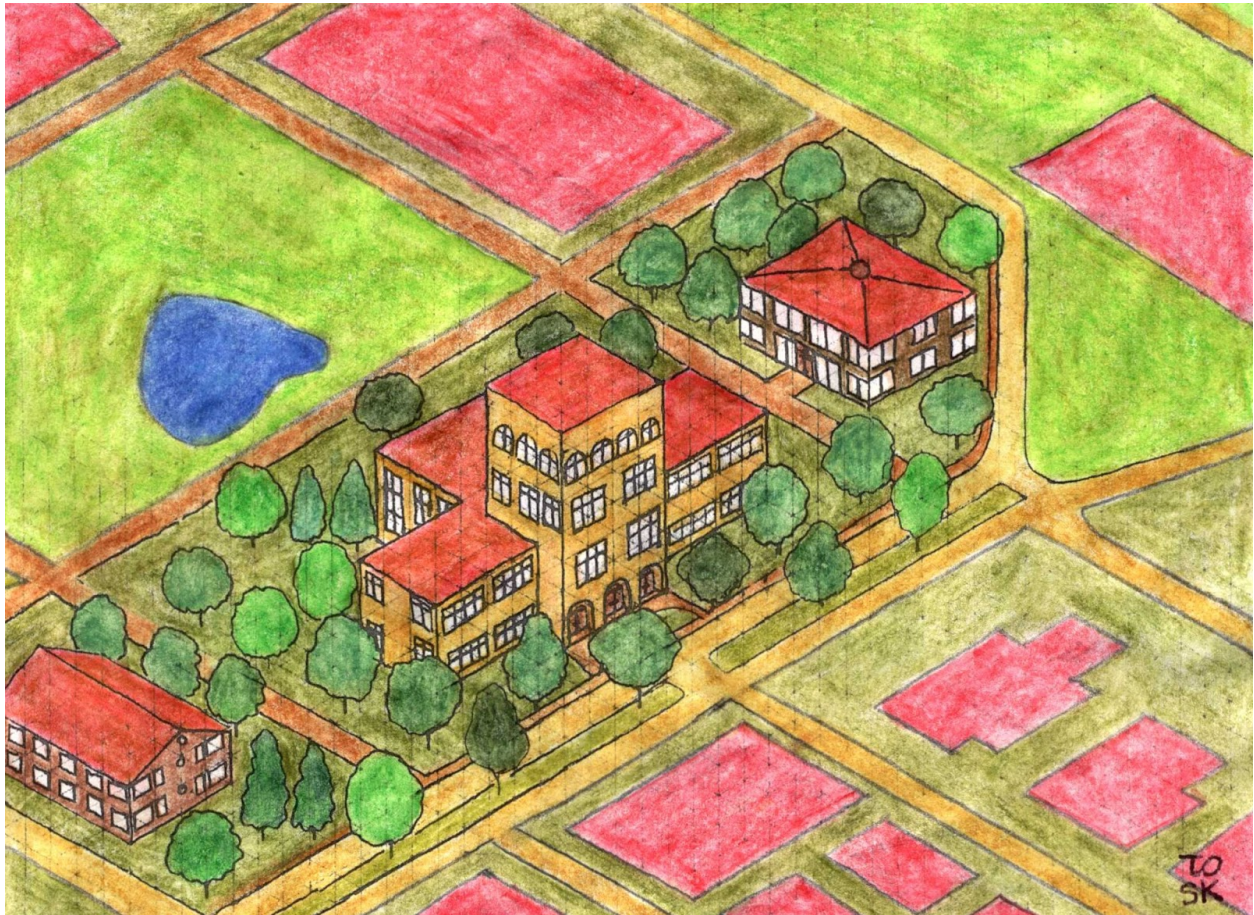
Just to the east of People’s Street is Lesenum Avenue/National St. This has an arcade that has a dozen small shops selling local crafts, artisan-made goods, and there are also several art galleries. Opposite the arcade is the Alfa Used Bookstore run by the Renova co-op.

The central square is Three Golden Rings Square (TGR Square). The Sutat Hotel is on the east side, and Project Alphistia’s headquarters is on the west side. On the south side is a large garden cafe that sells only two items: coffee and beignets.

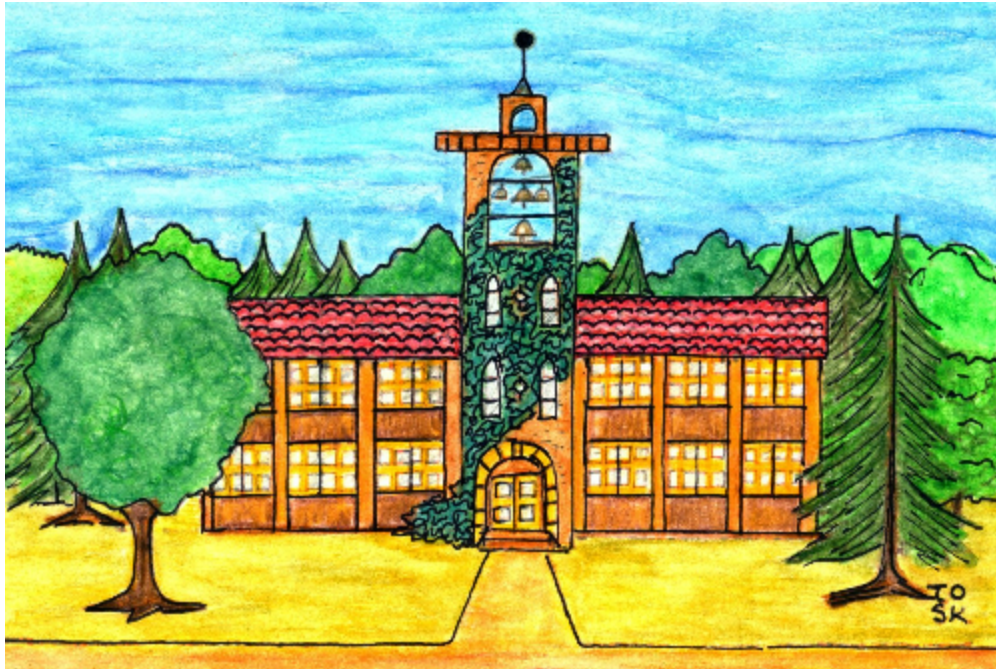
To the east of the central part of Enteve is the town’s main residential neighborhood. Along Alphistian Avenue is a dense area of quad apartment buildings and several tower blocks. Everyday shops are along the avenue, as well as a daycare center for working families and a kindergarten. Just south of the avenue is Enteve’s (and Alphistia’s) medical clinic, as well as a senior citizen’s apartment complex. These buildings face the beautiful Sioto River.

The west side of Enteve is mostly administration and cultural buildings. Along Community Avenue/Komunitas Prospekt is the “Kilrete”. This is the assembly building for the Alphistian council, Nearby is the Folkschool, which is several

buildings for adult education. There are courses for local residents and visitors to learn the Alphistian language, and many other subjects, including technical courses for those who wish to learn artisan and craft trades. Just west of the Folk School are Alphistia's school complex, with a basic school for grades 1-6, and a middle/high school for grades 7-12. Alphistian is taught from grade 1, although instruction is primarily in English.



The Folkschool adult education center



Høy Skola, high school

Along the river to the west of Community Avenue is Enteve's beautiful Sutat Park. There is a museum building which has regular art shows, and a permanent gallery of local artists' works. The western part of the park has Alphistia's main sports park: a stadium and an indoor sports hall. On the north side of the e-bus road is another sports area with more playing fields and a swimming center.



Pravikense Bibliotek, the public library



The Sport Hall

Also north of the e-bus road is Alphistia's main factory and workshop area. Along with the Renova Co-op's reuse facilities and warehouse are many smaller co-ops and private companies that make products for local use and to sell visitors.

The only real hill in Alphistia's one square mile is on the south side of the Sioto River. It is just about 100 feet at its highest, but a "folly" has been built at its summit. This is the Children's Castle (Kinden Kastel). From its tower, every square inch of Alphistia can be seen, and so can the surrounding countryside. The rest of the southern part of Enteve consists mostly of rowhouses and cottages. There are also many small garden allotments popular with town dwellers to grow their own fruits and vegetables or to sell them at the local farmer's market.

Residents in Enteve can easily walk to the center, the ebus station, or to all the local shops and cultural buildings. There are on-call e-taxis at several stops in the town, and a system of hourly rental vans available too. Most people use bicycles in town or even to go to other parts of the Project.

Villages

The other settlements in Alphistia are the five villages: Kloster, Usta, Leva, Tava, and Kampen. They are all located along the loop road which connects them through frequent e-bus service. There are flis paths as well that bicycles, small electric vehicles, and pedestrians can use to go from each village to the others and Enteve.

In the north of Alphistia is the village of Usta. It has a population of 215. It is on the south shore of Lake Arden, the reservoir for the two hydroelectric dams that supply most of the electricity to the Project. Usta is the main arrival and departure point that links Alphistia to the surrounding region. There is a parking lot there for the vehicles which cannot be used inside Alphistia: non-electric cars, vans, and trucks. It is a short walk from the lot to the Welcome Center at Usta, which is also the station for the e-bus system. Taxis can take visitors directly to Enteve from the Welcome Center, or e-cars and bicycles can be rented by the hour. For those who will stay overnight, there is a reservation desk for hotels, pensions, room-rentals, or a cabin at the camping site. There is a small hotel with a spa next to the Welcome Center which faces the Arden Lake beach. At the bridge crossing the Lake, there is a dock. Each day in good weather there is a boat that travels back and forth from Usta west to Leva and down to Tava.

Usta is where many farmers and gardeners live, since there is a goat farm just to the north of the village, and an area filled with vegetable gardens and orchards just to the south. A market house is adjacent to the Welcome Center, along with the local administration building and the Ko-op. There is a pleasant square with a cafe and snack bar, a kindergarten and daycare center, with a playground. The rest of the village are the streets of rowhouses and cottages of the residents.

To the west of Usta is Leva (population 210), a village similar in size to Usta, that is a busy fishing center. Along the shore of the lake is a fish farm for tilapia, and the lake is full of carp. There is a beach along the lake inlet just to the east of Leva which is a popular fishing spot of visitors. In between the beach and the village is a beautiful wooded area with hiking paths that extends all the way to the southern border of Alphistia. Leva's residents work largely at the fish farm, the fish processing plant, the dairy, or in several small co-op workshops. There are also some gardens just to the south of the village. Alphistia's Protestant congregations meet at the church in the main square, which is also where there is a fish restaurant, Ko-op shop, and a cafe. East of the village is a hotel made up of individual cabins, in one of the prettiest spots in Alphistia, facing the Lake Arden inlet.

In the southwest part of Alphistia is the village of Tava (population 220). It is in a rich agricultural area, but its co-op workshops are also important, as is the larger of the Project's two hydro dams. Tava is the least visited of the villages, since it is mostly a workplace. It is pretty with a pleasant central square, but there is no

hotel or pension. Just south of Tava, the e-bus road loops through a forested area that is popular with hikers.



Kampen

Kampen is in the center of Alphistia along the Arden creek. This is another beautiful area, and the small village here (population of 110) doubles in size often during the summer and autumn because of the visitors who enjoy the hiking and leisure facilities. There are two cabin hotels, a spa with a three level hotpots area, and a lodge with an expensive restaurant. In the summer there is a youth camp for two weeks which is popular with Project Alphistia's scouting group.

Just north of Enteve is Alphistia's most beautiful village, Kloster. This is where the former convent of the Sisters of St Clareta is located, and its buildings precede

Project Alphistia's settlement. The e-bus station is right next to the main former convent building, where many of the sisters lived. An archway leads to a lovely square, with the Ko-op, a restaurant, a cafe, and a cafeteria. Opposite the convent (now the administrative building of the village) is Alpha Center. This is a weekend program which introduces visitors to Alphistia's unique philosophy and ways of living. Behind the Alpha Center is another beautiful square, which has Alphistia's Catholic church, which was part of the former convent. There is also a building which was a residence for nuns that is now a hotel and apartments that can be rented short term. North of the two squares is the residential area and the site of several co-op workshops, one specializing in cheeses. At the Sioto River is the dam from the convent days which had been in disuse, but recommissioned by Project Alphistia to provide electricity for Enteve. Kloster is always lively due to the Alpha Center's programs and its many visitors each week, since it is so cosy and pleasant. To the west of Kloster is a greenhouse area, which helps to provide the community with fruits and vegetables year round. The canning is done in Kloster at a small factory next to the dam.



The Village of Kloster

A Future Alphistia

Both the one square mile Alphistia and an Alphistian microstate are near future projects. At the time of writing (late 2025) America is in disarray and flux, and the current regime promises more disruption and decline. Climate change is real, and little can be done to stop it at this late stage. The rise of a new fascism is not only an American problem, but something that most European democracies face as an existential threat. Mad Max America is a very real prospect, Mad Max Northern Hemisphere is increasingly likely, to a greater or lesser degree. The beginning of a new Dark Ages is a reality at this point.

In the Dark Ages after the Fall of Rome during the early Middle Ages, small monastic communities preserved some of the knowledge of the Classical Age. Much was lost, but monks copied ancient scrolls and stored them as books in their libraries. There was an archipelago of small groups of people who did survive centuries of chaos in relative peace. That is the goal of Project Alphista: first as a small and beautiful community, and then as a microstate.

Anthony Skaggs

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alphistia@gmail.com

